



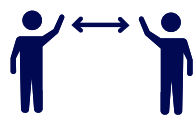
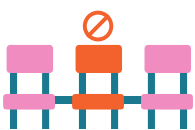
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Fond du Lac County
Health Department**

GUIDANCE FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES DURING COVID-19

The Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that people avoid medium- and large-sized gatherings, including traditional graduation ceremonies. This guidance applies even for those who are fully vaccinated. If schools decide to hold an in-person graduation ceremony, they should ensure that their event complies with state and local recommendations.

Ideas to mitigate the risk of in-person graduation ceremonies include:



- Plan and organize the in-person ceremony at a space large enough to include physical distancing of 6 feet or more between members of different households.
- Limit the number of attendees per student. For example, 4 persons per student taking into consideration blended families.
- Ensure that people standing in line can maintain 6 feet of distance from one another. Post signs or markers to help attendees maintain the appropriate distance.
- If open, limit the number of people who occupy restrooms at one time to allow for physical distancing.
- If friends and family gather for pictures, encourage photography to be taken outdoors.
- Shorten the graduation ceremony, if possible.
- Host the ceremony outdoors, with plans to host inside if weather is not permitting.
- For indoor ceremonies, making sure ventilation systems are operating properly and increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Encourage use of face coverings while attending the ceremony.
- Encourage guests to avoid singing or shouting, especially indoors. If possible, keep music levels down so people do not have to shout or speak loudly to be heard.

Schools that choose to hold graduation ceremonies can follow [CDC's recommended phased mitigation strategies](#) (see Table 2) for extracurricular activities to inform safety measures based on [local level of community transmission](#). Schools holding graduation ceremonies should also refer to [CDC's Guidance for Organizing Large Events and Gatherings](#).

School districts are encouraged to involve local health departments, law enforcement, and community partners to ensure that health and safety protocols are followed appropriately. The guidelines above are subject to change as incidence of coronavirus changes in our community, and as state guidance is updated.

Links for more information:

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community.htm> (virtual and alternative celebration ideas)
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/schools.htm>